

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

STEWART AWARDED \$1.5 MILLION FOR SECURITY COSTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that Stewart International Airport will be given \$1,513,020 in federal funds as reimbursement for the cost of complying with new security requirements. The funding resulted from a special appropriation passed by Congress in December and signed into law in January.

"After September 11 airports were required to make significant improvements in security," said Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "While these improvements are absolutely necessary, the cost of implementing them is particularly hard on airports the size of Stewart. Stewart will be reimbursed for 100 percent of its eligible costs."

The Defense Appropriations Act included an appropriation of \$175 million to reimburse airports for enhanced security. The legislation directed that the funds be distributed in a "manner to assist those airports that are facing the greatest financial challenges in complying" with Federal Aviation Administration security directives.

The FAA subsequently found that the smaller airports suffered the greatest financial impacts, while the medium and large airports had a greater capacity to absorb the additional security costs. Consequently, although airports across the country cumulatively applied for \$445 million in eligible costs, non-hub airports like Stewart were awarded 100 percent reimbursement for their \$35.6 million in eligible costs.

"This is wonderful news," said Chuck Seliga, Stewart's general manager. "With this funding we'll be able to greatly enhance security and meet the new federal standards."

The \$175 million appropriation will be split among 317 airports nationwide. Seventeen airports in New York State will receive nearly \$12 million. With the exception of LaGuardia, JFK and Westchester County airports, no facility in the state was awarded as much as Stewart.